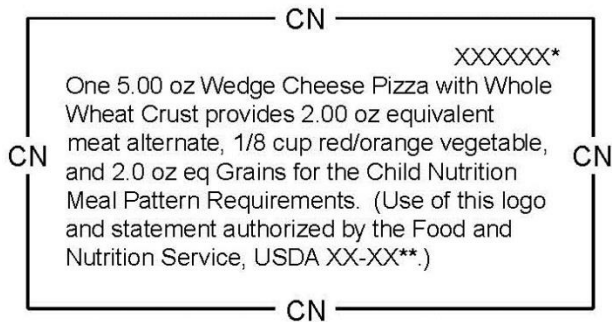


How to Credit a Food Item in the Child Nutrition (CN) Program

If a Product has a Child Nutrition (CN) label:

- CN label shows meal contribution statement.
- Six digit product ID number
- USDA/FNS authorization statement
- The month and year of approval
- Clearly identifies contribution of a product toward the meal pattern requirements using yields in the USDA Food Buying guide for Child Nutrition Programs.
- Is produced under Federal inspection by USDA or USDC per the CN Labeling memorandum of understanding.



- Obtain a Nutrition Facts panel on the processed product and review the ingredients to determine calories, saturated fat and sodium.
- Verify that the product is whole grain rich by reviewing the ingredient list.

If a Product does not have a Child Nutrition (CN) label:

- Obtain a Nutrition Facts panel on the processed product and review the ingredients to determine if the product credits to the CN meal pattern.
- Determine if the creditable ingredients listed in the product formulation statement match description in the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition.
- Verify that the credit a product contributes to meal pattern requirements is not greater than the serving size of the product. For example a 2.20 oz beef patty may not credit for more than 2.0 oz M/MA.
- Obtain a completed and signed Product Formulation Statement (PFS) on the manufacturers' letterhead to demonstrate how the processed product contributes to the meal pattern requirements.
- Ensure that the PFS proves how the claimed credit was obtained and that the creditable components are visible in the finished product
- It is never acceptable for a manufacturer to simply state that the product provides a certain amount of credit for the CN meal pattern.
- For more information including checklist and guidance for crediting of specific foods:
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/cnlabeling/foodmanufacturers.htm>